

CLAIMS

We claim as our invention:

1. A pivot device, comprising
a pivot member which supports the device on a placement plane when
the device is placed on the plane, wherein the pivot member acts as a pivot that
allows the orientation of the device to be changed when the device is tilted by
lifting its predetermined end.

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2. The device according to Claim 1, further comprising:
three or more rubber pads which support the device on the placement
plane when the device is placed on the plane, wherein when the device is tilted
as described above, the device rotates using predetermined two of said rubber
pads as supporting axes until said pivot member comes into contact with the
placement plane, said pivot member being positioned outside of said supporting
axes.

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3. The device according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of pivot members
are provided and a different one of said plurality of pivot members acts as the
pivot according to the position of the lifted end.

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4. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said pivot member is formed
integrally with a member constituting the base of the device.

5. The device according to Claim 1, wherein an interstitial member is provided on the portion of said pivot member that comes into contact with the placement plane, wherein the interstitial member is selected from the group consisting of a predetermined coating applied to said pivot member and a cover member.

6. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said portion of said pivot member that comes into contact with the placement plane has a spherical shape.

7. Apparatus comprising:

10 a portable body having a keyboard on its top face and having various connectors on its back face;

a lid portion having a display, the lid portion provided to said body via a hinge so as to open and close with the display face side of the display facing said keyboard;

15 rubber pads provided at the four corners on the base of the body; and a pivot member provided on the base of said body farther to the back face side than two of said rubber pads on the back face side of the body;

wherein said pivot member serves as a pivot that allows the orientation of the portable computer to be changed by coming into contact with the placement plane when the front end portion of the body placed on the placement plane is lifted.

8. Apparatus of Claim 7 wherein two pivot members are provided in right and left positions apart from each other, respectively and the right pivot member acts as a pivot when the front left end of the body is lifted and the left pivot member acts as the pivot when the front right end of the body is lifted.

9. Apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the positions of said two rubber pads on the back face side of the body are near enough to the back face of the body that the front end of the body does not rise even when a force is applied to said lid portion to open it, and the positions of said pivot members are apart enough
5 from said two rubber pads toward the back face of the body depending on the heights of the lower ends of the pivot members that the lower end of the pivot member comes into contact with the placement plane when the front end of the body is lifted a predetermined amount.